

Carolinas Geographic Rugby Union
2019 Annual General Meeting
Sunday August 25th, 2019



- Call to order – Ted Hardy – 2 pm est
- Quorum Achieved (see Appendix A)
- 2018-19 overview and Chairman's remarks – Ted Hardy (10 min) (See attached presentation)
 - Review of the 2018/2019 playing cycle
 - Review/Breakdown of membership number
 - Look at operational highlights from the past year
 - Sponsored the Carolina Ruggerfest youth tournament and Women in Rugby Conference
 - USAR pushing for non-playing club admin/board members to register, go through Safe Sport training
- Operations Review – David Morris (10 min)
 - D. Morris at RugbyTown 7s, unable to attend AGM, R. Bortins and T. Hardy spoke on David's behalf
 - Increased presence at union events and tournaments - Attended multiple events to promote the CGRU
 - Focused on speaking with clubs, getting input
 - Responsible for vetting all Player Transfer requests
 - Worked on bringing Tiger Rugby/Rugby ATL combine to the Carolinas
 - Worked on bringing the Premiership Scholarship program to the CGRU
- Financial Review – Turtle (10 min) (See attached Financial review for 2018/2019)
 - Turtle in attendance, difficulty speaking due to laryngitis, R. Bortins spoke on her behalf to review income/expenses from the past cycle
 - Financial accounting and checking accounts were a mess when Turtle took over last year
 - Still working through some of the issues with accounts, but bookkeeping in a significantly better position
 - Current Balances
 - BB&T: \$37,936.22
 - BB&T: \$10,000 in a 6 month CD at 1.75%
 - First Citizens: \$3950.92
 - Union has a checking debit card for the first time ever
 - Important that clubs are familiar with reimbursement policy and form on the CGRU website
 - Still working through some issues with the IRS and CGRU non-profit status that lapsed years ago
- Communications Review – Robert Bortins (5 Min) (See attached presentation)
 - Social media breakdown
 - Increased following

- Increased activity through social media
 - Announcements
 - Sharing Tournaments
 - New website
 - Tried getting out correspondence to club contacts every month or two
 - Need up to date contacts from clubs to make sure the messages are getting to the right place
 - Board tried to hold conference call every month or so to stay on target
 - Weekly communication among the board through email and Slack
 - Wins and Learning opportunities

Competitions Review:

- Women's College Review – Amy George (5 Min)
 - No report
- Women's D2 Review – Kelly Ting (5 Min)
 - 6-8 teams any given year in Women's D2
 - Help is needed getting new clubs off of the ground
 - Need to pick a competition structure and stick to it
- Men's D2 Review – Eric Perkins (5 Min)
 - Raleigh RFC joining the CGRU as full member for 2019/2020
 - Charleston relegated to D3, Asheville promoted to D2
 - Promotion/relegation policy to be reviewed based on questions that arose during the season - board backed the policy when making decisions
 - Playoff structure in the works
 - GRU to take over administrative oversight of the Carolinas-Georgia South Division for 2019/2020 - Goal is for it to become a fully run and separate Georgia D2 for the 2020/2021 season
- Men's D3 Review – Pat Dennehy (5 Min)
 - Currently 9 teams in D3, 8 game schedule, each team plays the others once
 - Need to get D3 back up to 10 teams in two separate divisions to help decrease the amount of travel involved
 - Distinct home field advantage with the current structure
 - Need to make sure there is a two week buffer between CGRU Championship and the South Playoffs
- Men's D4 Review – Ted Hardy (5 Min)
 - D4 competition revived this past season after a one year hiatus
 - Important growth level for the CGRU, entry point into the union
 - 5 teams last season, 7 teams participating for 2019/2020
 - Returning Clubs: Southern Pines B, Clayton B, New Bern
 - New Clubs: Duke Grads, Gaston County, Charleston Blockade, Charlotte Royals
 - Two other clubs forming with goal of joining D4 next year
 - Encourage existing clubs to look at D4 as an option for their B sides, great way to keep players involved that can't make training consistently, but still want to play socially
 - Need to grow D4 so we can regionalize the divisions to decrease travel

- Look at adding promotion/relegation with D3 in the future
 - Florida starting a D4 competition
 - Could eventually lead to the South CR eventually offering a South D4 championship
- 7s Review – Ted Hardy (5 Min)
 - No CGRU clubs participated in the qualifying process for the South CR this summer
 - CGRU was to host one of the South Qualifying tournaments, but deferred to Georgia to save clubs on travelling to the Carolinas when there weren't any teams from the CGRU participating
 - Saw a bit of a downward trend in 7s participation this past summer
 - Increased administrative demands from USA Rugby making it tough on social tournaments
 - SERRS has requested that some best practices are developed to help tournament administrators clear all of the hurdles to get their events sanctioned
 - Incident at Cape Fear 7s brought some light on admin procedures for vetting social teams and touring sides before participation
- Referee Review – Amanda Cox (5 Min)
 - A. Cox at RugbyTown 7s, J. Meyers spoke on her behalf
 - Decrease in registered referees in the CGRU partly due to referees registering through the GRU as the SERRS home office is in Georgia
 - Referee numbers are steady, but increasing demand from youth organizations to use SERRS referees is making it tough on scheduling
 - Sanctioning of events a hot topic - T. Hardy to work on best practices to help tournament hosts with sanctioning and vetting players, coaches, etc.
 - SERRS looking to provide individual insurance for all of their referees
 - Increased liability for refs
 - Players and coaches participating without being registered, clubs not policing registrations, other issues
 - SERRS looking to send a young referee to Stellenbosch for 6-8 months for referee development
 - Looking for sponsorship
 - Need to raise about \$8000 to cover expenses

Question for board

- Southern Pines Women
 - We've had a complete turnover of our board, need help with admin info on who we need to pay to be compliant... SERRS, USAR, etc.
 - J. Meyers explained SERRS billing process, amount based on club's registration number from 2018/2019 - Invoices should go out in September
 - Questions about the travel reimbursement for Women's D2
 - K. Ting explained the policy - Clubs travelling four or more hours to play get a flat \$100 travel reimbursement
- Question about equipment grants

- T. Hardy - Don't feel as if they achieve our mission of helping as many clubs as possible. Equipment grants very specific and only benefit those that apply for them
- R. Bortins - An active board/admin could beat other clubs to the punch in getting the funding
- T. Hardy - I'd rather see the funds moved to our Coaching/Playing Development budget for this coming season. We're getting more bang for our buck by developing coaches that take their new knowledge back to their clubs.
- No clubs opposed
- Vote to be added to the electronic elections ballot
- R. Bortins - Should we add a D4 Director to our board?
 - T. Hardy - With the growth in that division and the size of the group they should have representation
 - No one opposed
 - Vote to be added to the electronic elections ballot
- R. Bortins - Should we add a non-voting position to work with 7s tournament admins, coordinate schedules, etc.?
 - T. Hardy - with increased scrutiny on the sanctioning of tournaments, I think this position is of benefit to our union
 - B. Bogen interested in position
 - No one opposed
 - Vote to be added to the electronic ballot

New Business

- Discussion on placement of the marketing grants that were budgeted last year
 - T. Hardy - Because of the work that needed to be done on getting our financial accounts in order (THANKS TURTLE!!!) we were delayed in getting a union debit card. Intention was to use social media promotions to help clubs and tournaments. Would like to see us give it a shot this year now that we have the means to do it.
 - R. Bortins - Perhaps we pump that funding into our "Find a Club" took on the CGRU website? Target men/women ages 18-30 that are into sports in the Carolinas. Then all clubs have the opportunity to benefit.
 - No opposition - Line item to remain in budget and CGRU to use for targeting potential new players and directing them to our "Find a Club" website page

Elections (Position: Nominations)

Each nominated representative that was in attendance took a few moments to speak about themselves and why they want to be involved.

President: Robert Bortins

Rugby Operations: David Morris, Randy Akerman

Finance: Amy George

Communications: Maddy Clark

Women's Collegiate: Amy George; Callie Woods, Maddy Clark

Women's D2: Kelly Ting, Maddy Clark

Men's D2: Eric Perkins, Maddy Clark, Randy Akerman

Men's D3: Pat Dennehy, Randy Akerman

Men's D4: IF voted to add will be voted on later as to give time for people to apply

Willing to serve in multiple positions, did not say: Bill Blackett, Bob Davis, Chris Steiner

Appointment – Director of Referee

Appendix A

List of Attendees or Proxy